

Remarks

The Office Action and the references cited therein have been carefully reviewed. The following remarks herein are considered to be responsive thereto. Claims 1-13 remain in this application, claims 1, 12 and 13 are currently amended by this response.

Claims 1-9, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by UK Patent Application GB 2 273 411 issued to Garrett, et al. (Garrett). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Garrett in view of US Patent No. 5,610,390 issued to Miyano (Miyano). Further, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Garrett in view of US Patent No. 6,137,535 issued to Meyers (Meyers).

In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 12 and 13. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 12 and 13 patentably distinguish over the cited references and are allowable, and that claims 2-11 are allowable at least because they depend from an allowable base claim.

In regard to claims 1, 12 and 13 of the presently claimed invention, the claims have been amended for clarification purposes to more accurately and definitively set forth the invention. The claims have been amended to set forth in regard to claims 1, 12 and 13 the present invention comprises “a combined display-camera having a plurality of display elements and a plurality of camera elements, the display elements and camera elements comprising respective elements that are arranged substantially in a common plane with the display elements being interspersed with the camera elements.” No new matter has been added by this amendment.

The publication of Garrett teaches a video conferencing terminal, wherein the video conferencing terminal has a liquid crystal display for the reception and display of images from a like terminal. Additionally, an image detection means is placed behind the display in order to detect images that are to be transmitted to a like terminal. An image of a terminal viewer is obtained by omitting the "Blue" filter of various "RGB" sub-pixel elements that are contained in the video display window and substituting the "Blue" filters with charge coupled devices.

In particular, the present invention is configured as an array of alternating respective display elements and camera elements. Each of the display elements may be a conventional display element such as a liquid crystal display (LCD) element that may correspond to one or more image pixels. The camera elements may comprise a charge-coupled device (CCD), photosensor or other type of conventional image sensor, or a group of multiple such image sensors. Further, the image sensing outputs of the set of camera elements are combined using conventional image signal processing techniques so as to provide a desired composite image of a scene.

The arrangements the display-camera elements are numerous and various arrangements can be implemented to accomplish the objectives of the present invention. For example, the display-camera element combinations may be configured in a one-to-one relationship between the display elements 212 and the camera elements 214 as shown in FIG. 3(a) of the present application or a three-to-one relationship between display elements and camera elements as shown in FIG. 3(b)

This aspect of the present invention is very different from the device taught in Garrett. The disclosure of Garrett teaches that individual pixel elements are omitted in

order to provide an optical path between a user and a photosensitive device (page. 3, lines 23-26). Garrett specifically teaches that a specific luminance value of Red, Green or Blue is to be removed. Garrett teaches that the Blue value is preferred since the “eye is less sensitive to changes in blue luminance over a given area than it is to changes in red or green luminance” (page 4, lines 1-4). Therefore, the objective of Garrett is to remove sub-pixels from a color filter array without a user “perceiving any substantial detriment in picture quality” (page 4, lines 4-6).

Garrett does not teach a combined display-camera having a plurality of display elements and a plurality of camera elements, the display elements and camera elements comprising respective elements that are arranged substantially in a common plane with the display elements being interspersed with the camera elements. Garrett teaches that the image detection means are substituted as a part of the RGB display elements and that the image detection means are not configured to be separate entities that are arranged in proximity to the display elements.

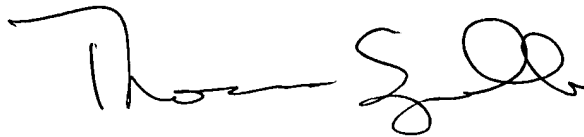
Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 12 and 13 are allowable for at least the given reasons. Further, claims 2-11, which depend from claim 1, are allowable therewith at least because they depend from an allowable base claim. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

In regard to the rejections of claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Applicant submits that cited references of Miyano and Meyers do not cure the deficiencies of Garrett. Since claims 10 and 11 depend from independent claim 1, the

Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of claims 10 and 11 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Spinelli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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